

ALASKA MISSION

SUMMER 2018

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA // BASIC FACTS

- Anchorage is located in the middle of the south central region of Alaska, situated right on the water.
- It takes approximately 4 hours to fly the 1,540 miles from PDX to the Anchorage airport.
- Anchorage is Alaska's largest city, with roughly 299,000 inhabitants: that's just under 1/2 the population of Portland.
- During the month of August, Anchorage has an average high of 64°F and an average low of 50°F.
- Alaskan summers have nearly 20 hours of daylight, so residents rely on blackout curtains and eye covers to sleep at night!

ABOUT THIRST MISSIONS

THIRST MISSIONS is a non-denominational Christian mission company based out of Forest Lake, Minnesota.

“When your group attends a mission trip with thirst missions, you aren't just going on another mission trip. You will be partnering with a local church and pastor who are looking for a mission team with your chosen ministries to serve alongside... Our trips are about quality over quantity. Quality of ministry, quality of relationships, and quality of congregations and pastors you will be partnering with.

Thirst Missions has a staff of 2-4 on every trip who are with your group, taking care of logistics and guiding you through the trip. It is our goal to partner with you to provide opportunities for your group to minister, keep everyone safe, to guide the trip in cultural areas, and to serve your group by taking care of all the behind-the-scenes details. Thirst Missions has led over 400 trips and 8,000 participants since its inception.”

MISSION TRIP BASICS

WHY ALASKA // While Alaska isn't exactly “close” - it's still “local.” Despite being over 1,500 miles away, Alaskans are still our fellow Pacific Northwesterners, yet they experience significantly more obstacles and adversities in their daily lives than we do. In essence, Alaskans are brothers and sisters in our own backyard. A mission trip to Alaska is also significantly more affordable than other mission trips. Most traditional mission trips to Mexico, Haiti, Ecuador, etc. run about twice the cost (or more). Finally, it's easy to fall into pride when going on an international mission. Americans tend to display a “hero complex” in which we attempt to “fix” the rest of the world, often making situations worse than they might otherwise be. Additionally, we can get caught up in the stereotypical notion of what a “mission trip” looks like, and it becomes more about boosting our own image and patting ourselves on the shoulder for a job-well-done. Alaska is a slightly less “glamorous” location that helps us remember: it's about **LOVE**, not an instagram post.

TRIP DETAILS //

- Mission runs from Saturday, August 11th through Saturday, August 18th, 2018
- Thirst Missions allows each group to choose service opportunities based on their own strengths. Some options include:
 - Mercy Ministry*
 - Youth Ministry*
 - Service Projects*
 - Vacation Bible School*
 - Community Outreach*
 - Job Skills Training*
 - Evangelization & Street Ministry*
 - And more!*
- In addition to our service work, we'll have recreation both midweek and at the end of our trip, including kayaking, hiking, and a 140-mile glacier cruise on Prince William's Sound.
- The cost for Alaska Mission, including airfare, housing, food, transportation, and recreation is approximately \$1,500/person.
- We will be hosting several fundraisers throughout the year, including a letter-writing campaign, "parent's night out," a pub-style trivia night, a rummage sale, recycled Advent candles, and more!
- Payments are due on Nov. 1st (25% of total), January 15th (25% of total), and June 1st (50% of total).
- Mission participants must be 14 years-old or have completed 8th grade by summer 2018, and so long as you are physically mobile, you are never too old to go on mission!
- Registration forms will be available on the parish website beginning September 1st. Registration **CLOSES** on September 30th. **ABSOLUTELY NO REGISTRATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED AFTER THIS DATE**, as final numbers will be turned in to the mission company on the morning of October 1st.

MISSION FORMATION //

- Aside from fundraising, we will meet once a month leading up to mission for practical preparation and spiritual formation. Additionally, each month, we will rotate between a fundraiser and a service project.
- Although missionaries are required to participate in our quarterly service projects, there will be many other service opportunities for which you are highly encouraged to attend as often as possible. Some options include:
 - Compassion Connect*
 - Frassati Supper*
 - Night Strike*
 - Vacation Bible School*
 - St. Vincent de Paul*
 - And more!*

A SPECIAL NOTE //

For those who are unable to come on the mission trip but would still like to be involved in some way: we will be recruiting an intercessory team to pray for each of our missionaries throughout the year and especially the week of mission. If you or someone you know is a powerful prayer warrior (cue grandma), be sure to get in contact with me, as we could really use your/their help!

WHAT'S NEXT? //

- **#1 PRAY** - The only way you can know if God is calling you to this mission is to ask Him. Set aside some time to sit before the Lord to discern His will for you in this matter.
- **#2 LEARN** - Start by checking the dates on your calendar, then read through the thirst missions brochure and explore their website.
- **#3 TALK** - Talk with your family and friends about going on the trip. Invite a friend to come to our next info meeting. Discuss any additional questions you may have with Chiara.